

REMARKS

The present communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed August 4, 2010 (hereinafter "Office Action"). Claim 43 is amended. Claims 5, 12, 16, 33, 39, 41 and 43 are pending and rejected 35 U.S.C. §103(a). In light of the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claim 43 is objected to for being dependent from canceled claim 42. Applicant corrected claim 43 to make it dependent from claim 33 and respectfully submits that the objection is overcome.

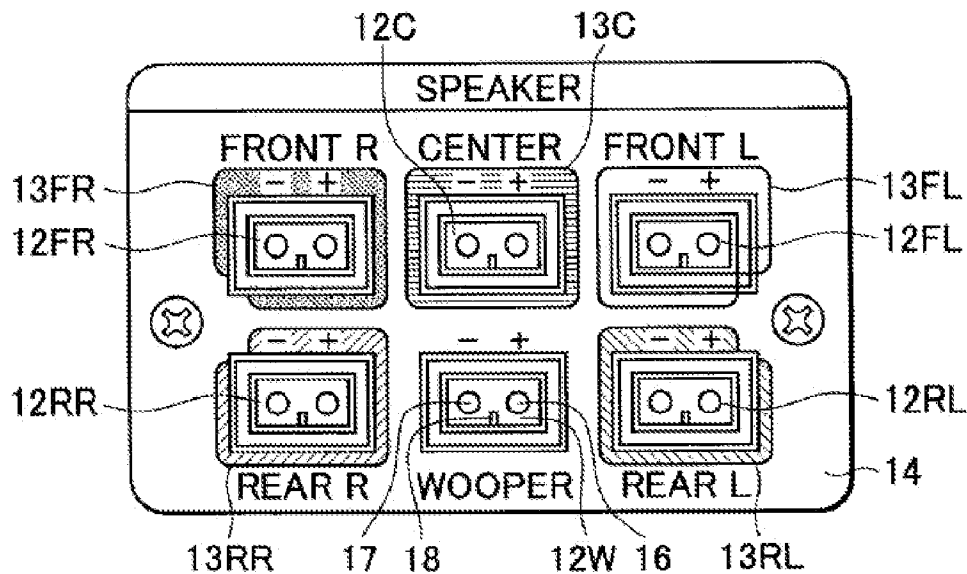
The Examiner made the rejection of claims 5, 16, 39 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,850,457 ("Gefvert") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,118,876 ("Ruzicka"), U.S. Patent No. 5,589,718 ("Lee"), U.S. Patent No. 5,470,253 to Siems et al. ("Siems"), U.S. Patent No. 3,824,524 ("Glover") and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA") of Figs. 12-14. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gefvert, Ruzicka, Lee (718), Siems, Glover, and APAA, and further in view of and U.S. Patent No. 5,984,717 ("Lee"). Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gefvert in view of AAPA and Glover. The Office Action also states that "[r]egarding claim 43, Glover discloses each of the plug connector structure and the socket connector structure has an asymmetric cross section such that one polarity thereof has a shape different from that of the other polarity.

In making the 103(a) rejection for claim 5, the Examiner asserts that FIG. 8B of Gefvert discloses the "output terminals corresponding to the left channels being arranged to the right of the output terminals corresponding to the right channels when viewed from the front of the receiver." (Office Action, page 3). The Examiner acknowledges that Gefvert does

not teach the output terminals corresponding to the positions of the speakers as viewed from the rear portion of the electronic apparatus. To cure the admitted deficiency of Gefvert, the Examiner then proceeds to state that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made" to modify Gelvert, "as taught by AAPA." (Office Action, page 3). The modification results in "all of the audio signal output terminals corresponding to the left channels being arranged to the right of all of the audio signal output terminals corresponding to the right channels as viewed from the rear of the apparatus" (Office Action, page 3).

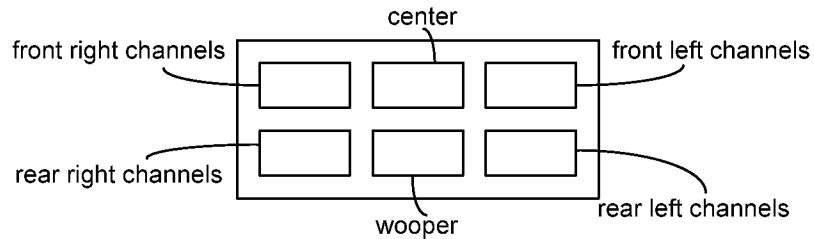
In response, it is respectfully requested that the above 103 rejection of claim 5 be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

FIG. 2 of present application shows:



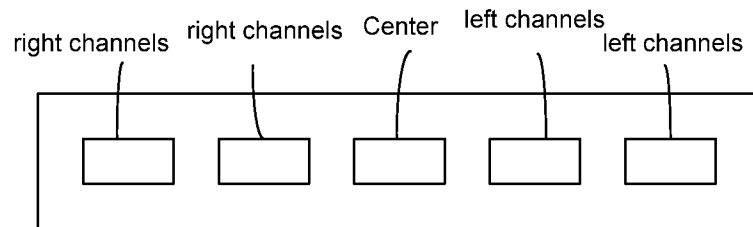
Claim 5 (viewed from the rear)

Thus, a simplified view of above FIG. 2 is illustrated as below.



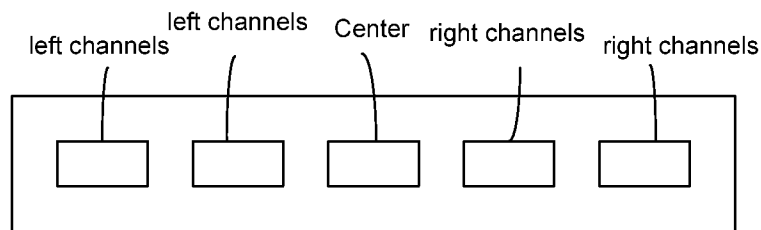
Claim 5 (viewed from the rear)

The arrangement in Gefvert of FIG. 8B as applied (i.e., the output terminals corresponding to the left channels being arranged to the right of the output terminals corresponding to the right channels when viewed from the front of the receiver) is illustrated in the drawing below.



Gefvert (viewed from the front)

Thus, when viewed from the rear, Gefvert shows:



Gefvert (viewed from the rear)

Thus, it can be seen that Gefvert teaches the opposite to that recited in the present claim 5.

In FIGS. 12-14 of the present application (which the Examiner referred to as "AAPA"), the illustrations clearly show that, the front left audio signal output terminal, instead of being arranged to the right of the rear right audio signal output terminal, is notably arranged to the left of the rear right audio signal output terminal.

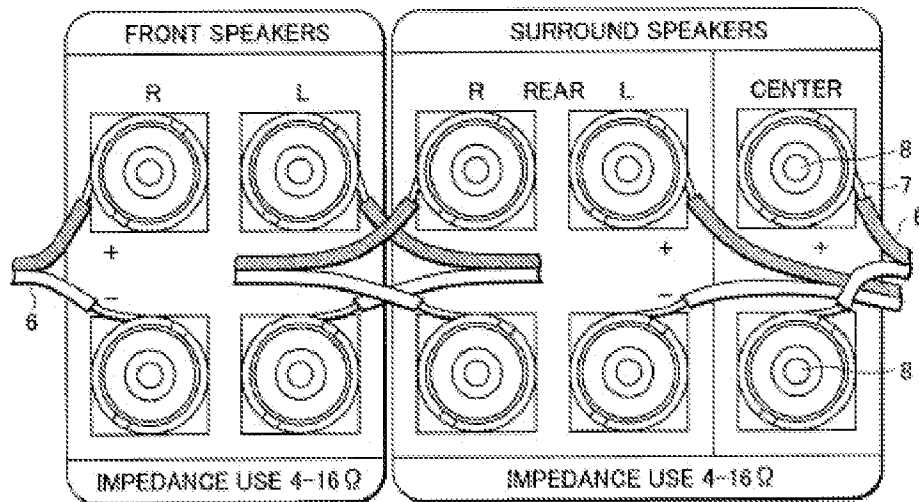


FIG. 12 (viewed from the rear)

A simplified view of above FIG. 12 is illustrated as below.

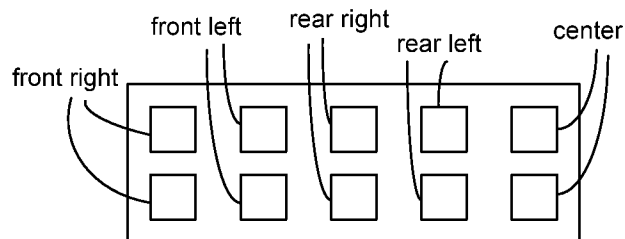


FIG. 12 (viewed from the rear)

Therefore, neither FIG. 8B of Gefvert nor FIGS. 12-14 of the present application discloses the arrangement of the left and right audio signal output terminals specifically recited in claim 5 of the present application.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Gefvert and Figs. 12-14 of the present application would not have suggested to one skilled in the art the output terminal arrangement recited in claim 5. From the above illustrations, it can be seen that the arrangement in FIGS. 12-14 is completely different from the arrangement in Gefvert. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, one skilled in the art, upon viewing Gefvert and Figs. 12-14, would

have selected either the terminal arrangement of Fig. 8B of Gefvert or that of Figs. 12-14 of the present application as the terminal arrangement to be used. In addition, because Gefvert effectively teaches the opposite of the output terminal arrangement in claim 5, a person of ordinary skill in the art cannot obtain the arrangement in claim 5 by combining Gefvert and FIGS. 12-14.

For at least the reasons described above, it is respectfully submitted that the 103 rejection on claims 5, 16 and 33, as well as the rejection on the claims that depend from them, has been overcome and, therefore, should be withdrawn. Lee (717) is not used to cure the above deficiency of Gefvert and FIGS. 12-14. Therefore, it is also respectfully submitted that claim the 103 rejection on claim 12 is also overcome and should be withdrawn.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

Application No.: 09/800,056

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-755

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefore.

Dated: October 27, 2010

Respectfully submitted,
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